

utilities. I want to assure them that the Senate will not wait any longer and will pass legislation this session to provide immediate relief to the thousands of senior citizens in South Dakota and across the nation who are having difficulty affording life-saving medication.

Even if we can't reach an agreement on a Medicare prescription drug plan this year, there are several steps we can take now that would provide some relief to seniors who face rising prescription drug costs. All three of the bills that I have sponsored, including the Prescription Drug Fairness For Seniors Act, the International Prescription Drug Parity Act, and the Generic Pharmaceutical Access and Choice For Consumers Act, if enacted this year, would provide immediate relief to millions of Americans across the country. Equally so, these bills would require no additional taxpayer dollars nor new government program."

While they may not be the magic bullet that meets all of the long term needs of providing Medicare prescription drug coverage, they would provide a mechanism for immediate relief from rising drug costs. Working together, reaching across the aisle, we can use this time of unparalleled prosperity to do the right thing by our seniors. We should do it this year for their sake, and for the sake of the future of Medicare.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today, on the 66th anniversary of the National Credit Union Act being signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to salute the Nation's credit unions and acknowledge their important contributions.

Prior to 1934, collective pools of employees gathered their assets to assist them in acquiring credit and improving their financial futures. The first credit union in the United States was established in 1909, as the only financial institution available to low-income workers who wanted to save their wages and receive short-term consumer loans.

In the spring of 1925, the Minneapolis postal employees collectively began Minnesota's first credit union with 15 workers attending the initial meeting. Started with a total of \$146.25 in assets, the Minneapolis Postal Employees Credit Union, now called the US Fed-

eral Credit Union, has survived through times of economic hardship such as the Depression of the 1930s and World War II.

Today, the Federal Credit Union System has well over \$300 billion in assets, and some 67 million Americans enjoy membership in credit unions nationwide. Credit unions bring together people with common employers, ethnic backgrounds, or geographic areas. They have positively impacted economic growth in the United States by increasing Americans' access to credit through a system of cooperative organizations which have helped stabilize America's credit structure.

The credit union philosophy of "people helping people" continues to provide many rural and economically depressed areas with the financial tools and confidence necessary for success. In my state of Minnesota, more than 195 credit unions not only provide mortgages, loans, and financial savings opportunities, but also bring their communities together to raise money for programs such as "Credit Unions for Kids." This effort is a collaboration of credit unions and business partners benefitting 170 Children's Miracle Network-affiliated hospitals serving 14 million kids nationwide.

Minnesota credit unions also provide funds for the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized to serve charitable, scientific and educational purposes with special emphasis on credit union-related activities. Funds are used to provide disaster relief efforts for credit union members, develop credit unions in emerging nations, and supply scholarships to educational training programs.

Mr. President, as a member of a credit union myself, I would like to thank America's credit unions on this anniversary for their constant and continuous efforts to assist the men and women of their communities overcome life's financial obstacles and build a more secure future for themselves and their families.●

IN HONOR OF PAUL McLAUGHLIN

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to join the City of Boston, the residents of Massachusetts, and members of the law enforcement community across the country in recognizing the loss of Paul McLaughlin. Paul was a committed prosecutor who lived his life for others, and on September 25, 1995, he was shot while getting into his car after work. This weekend Boston memorializes its loss with the dedication of the Paul McLaughlin Boys and Girls Club in Dorchester's Savin Hill neighborhood and I join the city in this important day of recognition.

Paul came from a long, distinguished line of Bostonians. His grandfather, Edward Sr., was the Boston Fire Commissioner as well as a member of the State Legislature in the 1920's, and his father, Edward Jr., was President of the Boston City Council, an Assistant U.S.

Attorney, and Lt. Governor under Governor Volpe. A graduate of Boston Latin School, Dartmouth College and Suffolk Law School, Paul was admitted to the bar in 1981 and his early work included time at the Cambridge District Court and the Public Protection Bureau. Paul was the consummate professional, and his reputation soon led to serving on the Attorney General's staff in 1991, where he was assigned to drug and gang cases in Suffolk Superior Court. During one five year stretch he compiled an impressive 73 percent conviction rate, winning 98 of 134 Superior Court cases.

In a fitting tribute to Paul's commitment to working for a better community for all of us, especially our children, the site for the McLaughlin Boys and Girls Club is one of Boston's Ten Most Wanted drug houses. On Saturday, June 24th, the McLaughlin Family joined with Mayor Thomas M. Menino and members of the Colonel Daniel Marr Boys & Girls Club in honoring Paul's life by opening a remarkable new facility in his name in Dorchester's Savin Hill neighborhood. The Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center will perpetuate Paul's legacy of selfless service to his community by serving 2,600 children in one of the state's most successful youth programs. The structure that used to be the source of drugs and despair will now be a beacon of hope for the whole city.

Mr. President, I join the people of Dorchester, West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain in mourning the loss of their neighbor and friend. My thoughts go out to Paul's colleagues, friends and family. Together, we realize how fortunate we are to have worked with and known an individual of his caliber. Today the City of Boston memorializes this loss, and I join everyone in honoring his life by opening the Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS BURACK

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas Burack of Dunbarton, New Hampshire, for receiving the "Cotton Cleveland Leadership Award" for 2000.

A renowned and engaging speaker, he is often found addressing business groups and honoring professionals who have made outstanding accomplishments. It seems only fitting, then, that he should be honored with this award which celebrates the accomplishments of an outstanding individual who has demonstrated involvement and commitment to community service as well as the ability to encourage and develop leadership in others.

A graduate of the 1997 Leadership New Hampshire class, he practices law at the firm of Sheehan, Phinney, Bass, and Green, P.A. Over the past ten years, he has donated both time and experience to the Dartmouth Environmental Network, the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Commission, the Audubon Society of New

Hampshire and the WasteCap Resource Conservation Network.

A recipient of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, Thomas Burack is also the founding President of the Truman Scholars Association and a member of the Board of Trustees of the George C. Marshall Foundation of Lexington, Virginia.

Thomas Burack has proven himself to be an outstanding citizen, volunteer and a resource to his surrounding community. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO RYAN BELANGER FOR HIS HEROIC RESCUE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has distinguished himself in the State of New Hampshire by performing the outstanding heroic act of saving the life of a resident of the town of Bedford.

Ryan Belanger acted selflessly on April 9th, 2000, to rescue resident Paula Halla, only moments before her car exploded. Paula's car had been struck off the road by a tree that fell during a storm, leaving her trapped in the burning vehicle anxiously awaiting rescue crews.

Belanger, who noticed the vehicle after also striking the fallen tree, checked on the passengers in his vehicle and immediately rushed to the aid of Paula. Without hesitation, Ryan Belanger began to attempt to put out the fire, and pulled Paula from the burning car only moments before it exploded.

Citing his late grandfather's influence and love of life, Belanger stated, "He was my father, and made me who I am. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have pulled that lady out of the car." Had Ryan not acted with haste, Paula would have most likely been killed in the incident. Instead, she escaped with minor bruises and cuts.

I am honored to recognize a true American hero, and to commend him on his successful efforts to rescue a fellow resident of the state. He quickly rescued Paula Halla from her vehicle, saving her life. He is an inspiration to the town of Bedford, his home town of Manchester, and the state and nation as a whole. I applaud his courage and perseverance in the daring rescue. It is truly an honor and a pleasure to represent him in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN KENNEDY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Eileen Kennedy, a business reporter for the Nashua Telegraph, for receiving the United States Small Business Administration's 2000 "Women in Business Advocate of the Year" award.

Eileen's hard work and dedication clearly placed her at the top, as this was the first time a reporter has been selected for this award. Through

profiling local small business women, she has demonstrated compassion and understanding for the difficulties they face, and has acted as an advocate of their accomplishments.

A staff reporter at the Nashua Telegraph since May 1998, Eileen has frequently written on issues involving high-tech businesses, with particular attention paid to those owned and managed by women. She has effectively educated the surrounding community on small business leaders throughout the state.

As a former small business owner in the state, I commend Eileen Kennedy for her contribution. It is truly an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN MARTIN

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Carolyn Martin of the Keene Sentinel for being honored as the 2000 "Small Business Journalist of the Year" by the United States Small Business Administration.

Carolyn not only covers news and feature stories, but underscores the unique needs and accomplishments of small businesses and the men and women who lead them as well. Over the past year, she has helped increase public awareness of small business issues and reported on community service aimed at enhancing small business opportunity and growth.

Carolyn brings many qualifications with her to the job, as she has worked as a print and broadcast journalist in Annapolis, Maryland, and Mobile, Alabama. She also served as the senior communications officer with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was Vice President of Community Development for the Chamber of Commerce in Mobile, Alabama.

As a former small business owner in the state, I commend Carolyn for her hard work and dedication. It is truly an honor to represent her in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH C. LEDDY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph C. Leddy, CEO of Work Opportunities Unlimited, Inc., for being named the 2000 "Small Business Person of the Year" by the United States Small Business Administration.

Joseph founded the company in 1982, where it began as a local leader in the field of vocational training and employment placement. Presently, it brings in approximately \$12 million a year and employs over 500 people in 27 offices throughout four New England states.

Work Opportunities Unlimited assists individuals with disabilities, veterans, young adults, at-risk youth and others with locating employment, and has used previous Small Business Ad-

ministration funding to catapult their business to the forefront of the field.

In addition to his work with Work Opportunities Unlimited, Joseph has held numerous positions in the Department of Education, worked as a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist with the Veterans Association and taught at New Hampshire Technical College.

A valuable resource to the state and to New England, it is my honor and a great pleasure to represent Joseph Leddy in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF SALEM

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Salem on its 250th anniversary, an important and historic milestone.

Since being incorporated as a town on May 11, 1750, Salem has provided its residents with a safe place to raise families in a convenient location on the border of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. This thriving community boasts countless recreational opportunities. Canobie Lake attracts boaters, fishermen and those just looking for a peaceful place to relax. People from all over New England flock to Canobie Park to enjoy a day of games and fun during the summer months, and those who are looking for a little history can visit America's Stonehenge.

Salem's 26,000 residents have seen a great amount of change throughout its 250 years. The town is now home to numerous industrial firms, and will soon welcome Cisoq to the growing number of businesses that call Salem home. Salem also offers numerous shopping outlets, most notably the Mall at Rockingham Park, with opportunities for great tax-free shopping.

Salem is also home to some very talented athletes. Olympic Women's Hockey Gold Medalist Katie King was a multi-sport star at Salem High before the world took notice in Nagano in 1998. And Salem High's softball team is a perennial state power, taking the state title once again this year.

Salem is also a very politically active town as it recently opened its Republican Town Committee offices. Also, the town has come together to celebrate its 250th anniversary, celebrating with events that began with a tremendous First Night party to mark the year 2000 and will culminate with a party on the Fourth of July. Once again, I want to congratulate the town of Salem on its 250th anniversary. It is an honor to serve its citizens in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO THE BELKNAP COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Belknap County Economic Development Group for receiving the 2000 United States Small Business Administration's New Hampshire "Financial Services Advocate of the Year" award.